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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Hideki MATSUNAGA

Group Art Unit: 2162

Application No.: 09/923,440

Examiner: A. LY

Filed: August 8, 2001

Docket No.: 110331

For: OBJECT MANAGEMENT METHOD AND SYSTEM

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the May 1, 2007 Office Action, reconsideration of the rejections is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

Claims 1-18 are pending in this application. The Office Action rejects claims 1-4, 7-13 and 16-18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0149572 to Kanai et al. ("Kanai") in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0046224 to Bendik; and rejects claims 5, 6, 14 and 15 under U.S.C. §103(a) over Kanai in view of Bendik and U.S. Patent No. 6,850,893 to Lipkin et al. ("Lipkin"). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The Office Action relies on Kanai as allegedly teaching the features of the independent claims, with the exception of setting an identifier for identifying the object, the identifier associated with the object in a one-to-one relationship. The Office Action relies on Bendik to remedy this shortfall. The analysis of the Office Action fails for at least the following reason.

Close review of Kanai, reveals that it suffers from the same shortfall previously identified in the application of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0120858 to Porter et al. ("Porter") to the subject matter of the pending claims. Specifically, Kanai does not teach, nor can it reasonably be considered to have suggested, at least the features of defining a retrieval condition for retrieving an object, the retrieval condition being defined based on at least one attribute of the object; and setting an access right in association with the retrieval condition.

The Office Action relies on the prior art discussion in paragraph [0014] of Kanai as disclosing these features. However, this paragraph, and Fig. 3 of Kanai to which it refers, depict a conventional access control system. For example, in Fig. 3, image1.gif has an access right set to "owner." In other words, as in Porter, access control to stored documents in Kanai is based on access rights assigned to the document, which does not correspond to an access right set in association with a retrieval condition.

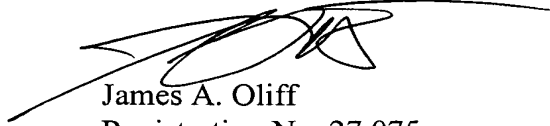
None of the other references are applied in a manner to overcome the identified shortfall in Kanai.

For at least the above reason, the applied references would not have suggested, all of the combinations of features positively recited in independent claims 1 and 10. Additionally, claims 2-9 and 11-18 are also neither taught, nor would they have been suggested, by the applied references for at least the respective dependence of these claims, directly or indirectly, on an allowable base claim, as well as for the separately patentable subject matter that each of these claims recites.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-18 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

James E. Golladay, II
Registration No. 58,182

JAO:JEG/clf

Date: June 22, 2007

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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